

JOHN D. PICKARD.

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FEBRUARY 8, 1904.—Ordered to be printed.

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Mr. McCUMBER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 1554.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1554) granting an increase of pension to John D. Pickard, have examined the same and report:

A similar bill was reported favorably from this committee in the Fifty-sixth Congress and passed the Senate.

The report, which contains all the facts, was as follows:

It is proposed by this bill as amended to increase from \$10 to \$20 per month the pension of John D. Pickard, of Houghton, Iowa, late of Company D, Seventh Regiment Iowa Volunteer Infantry, who served from July 25, 1861, to July 12, 1865.

The hospital records show that this soldier was treated at various dates during his service for remittent fever, intermittent fever, parotitis, acute bronchitis, and pneumonia.

Mr. Pickard, who is 60 years of age, filed and established a claim under the general law, and was pensioned January 19, 1887, for gunshot wound of right knee, at the rate of \$4 per month. This pension was increased to \$6 per month December 14, 1887, and to \$8 per month May 7, 1890.

June 5, 1893, he made claim for increase on account of his gunshot wound, and also on account of additional disabilities, rheumatism, chronic diarrhea, and malarial poisoning. His claim for increase on account of gunshot wound of right knee was rejected February 10, 1898, on the ground of no increase of disability from that cause; his claim for rheumatism was allowed February 7, 1898, at the rate of \$2 per month from June 5, 1893, making his pension for gunshot wound of right knee and rheumatism \$10 per month; and his claim for chronic diarrhea and malarial poisoning, the service origin and continuance of which were accepted by the Pension Bureau, was medically rejected January 10, 1898, on the ground of no pensionable degree of disability from those causes since the date of the filing of the claim therefor.

The medical examination made October 27, 1897, rated claimant \$8 for gunshot wound of right knee, \$4 for malarial poisoning, \$4 for rheumatism, \$4 for lumbago, and \$4 for obesity.

His last medical examination, made December 15, 1897, rated him \$12 for gunshot wound of right knee and \$4 for rheumatism.

Evidence filed with this committee in the Fifty-fifth Congress shows that claimant is a poor man, unable to perform manual labor sufficiently to support himself and family, which consists of a daughter and a weakly son who is afflicted with paralysis.

A special examiner of the Pension Bureau reported that claimant is poverty stricken and his home a destitute one.

In view of his long and faithful service, his disabled condition, and his abject poverty, your committee are of opinion that an increase of pension is proper.

The passage of the bill is recommended.

Your committee adopt the foregoing report and recommend the passage of the bill.

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